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# Information Respecting the Russian Soviet System and its Propaganda in North America

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Issued by the Department of Labour, Canada

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AUGUST, 1920







## INFORMATION RESPECTING THE RUSSIAN SOVIET SYSTEM AND ITS PROPAGANDA IN NORTH AMERICA

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**T**HE Department of Labour has gathered, from many sources, authentic information respecting the Russian Soviet system, its professed objective, and the visible results of its operation.

Numerous sympathizers with the communistic ideal, as experimented with in Russia, have publicly advocated a world-wide adoption of the Russian constitution. Much socialistic and revolutionary literature has been published and distributed, doubtless calculated to disturb and render discontented the minds of people in many lands at a time when economic conditions, due to and arising out of the world war, would seem to aid in the fulfilment of that purpose.

Little has been spoken or written in Canada upon the subject, except by its advocates and those idealists who would experiment with the imaginary rather than endeavor to perfect the real. It is obvious that the people of Canada do not as a whole fully appreciate the gravity of the socialist revolutionary movement in this country.

Canada went to war in 1914, her people fired with righteous indignation against a nation which sought by force to impose its will upon the world, and which repudiated and violated every national, legal, and moral obligation which it had voluntarily assumed. During the intervening years the Canadian people have been feverishly engaged in contributing to the success of our country's effort in the struggle, and in re-establishing our war-worn men and women, as well as our nation's industries, on a permanent peace footing. Those thus nobly engaged have not had much time and still less inclination to listen to or be influenced by the doctrines preached by the Soviet system sympathizers.

Of all the national tragedies which occurred during the war that which befell unfortunate and unhappy Russia was and is the most pathetic. By reason of German duplicity and intrigue the Russian people were betrayed, the last vestige of confidence in their rulers was dissipated, and, in March 1917, the overthrow of the dynasty and government of the Romanoff Czars was accomplished.

Accustomed to obedience without question, generally illiterate and incompetent to govern themselves, the Russian people were easy victims to a disguised but, nevertheless, more real autoocracy than that from which they had been freed.

From March to November, 1917, Kerensky endeavored to establish a stable government similar to and patterned after the form existing in the United States, but meanwhile the doctrines of Lenine and Trotsky were welcomed, accepted, and adopted by masses of workers and soldiers who, in the name of liberty, committed every crime imaginable, from theft to murder. In November, 1917, a new Government was declared to exist, the character and constitution of which may be described in the words of the report of the United States Senate Committee on foreign relations, dated April 14, 1920, which Committee had been delegated to investigate the status and activities of Ludwig G. A. K. Martens, the self-announced representative in the United States of the Soviet regime in Russia. His own sworn evidence shows his credentials to have been issued by the "Peoples' Commissariat of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Socialist Federated Soviet Republic" from Moscow, under date of January, 2, 1919, and sealed with the official seal of the Commissariat.



This Government, as was brought out in the course of the testimony, was set up in November, 1917, by counter revolution to the movement of March in that year, which had accomplished the dethronement of the Czar. The Republic operates under a constitution by the terms of which "all property rights in the land, treasures of the earth, water, forest, and fundamental natural resources within its boundaries are abolished; which confirms the transfer of banks into the ownership of the Government, by which there pass over without indemnification to the disposition of the county, provincial, regional, and Federal Soviets, all private live stock and inventoried property of non-labouring homesteads, and under which private merchants, trade and commercial brokers, monks and clergy of all denomination, and, in general, all persons who do not "perform useful social functions" have no right to vote or to be voted for. Under examination Martens explained that a man who owns a farm or other property in Russia and leases it to another cannot vote or be voted for. Under this constitution all banks are converted into a state monopoly, and holdings of bonds in excess of ten thousand roubles, or about five thousand dollars, were confiscated (a rouble is normally worth fifty-one cents in our currency). The confiscation had occurred without authority prior to the adoption of the constitution but was confirmed by that instrument. Under it no Russian is permitted to invest his capital or ship it out of the country or receive interest upon it. The constitution also provides for the disarming of the property classes and the arming of "all toilers" and the organization of a "Socialist Red Army".

Under this constitution, in an election the records are received by a Soviet composed solely of workers, which appoints a commission of verification, which in turn reports back to the Soviet, and the Soviet decides the question when there is a doubt as to which candidate is elected. By this means deputies are elected to the "All Russian Con-

gress of Soviets", and by this Congress the Prime Minister is chosen.

It is not difficult to understand the economic disaster which has fallen upon Russia when one considers the effect of the adoption of such a constitution and form of government in our own country. Imagine all land not personally tilled by the owner confiscated without compensation, and all banks nationalized and deposits above a limited amount confiscated to the State. Imagine all merchants engaged in trade or distribution of goods of any sort, monks and clergy of all denominations being classed as "persons who do not perform useful social functions" and deprived of voice or vote.

The inevitable result of such a suicidal policy has brought to Russia utter industrial demoralization, poverty, hunger, disease, and death, following a couple of years of profligate living and wastefulness by those who suddenly acquired wealth by confiscation, and who were without desire or ability to use it wisely in the interests of the community.

The writer, in personal conversation with a gentleman who left Petrograd in 1918, was informed that it was a desolate City of only 700,000 (formerly 2,000,000) people, hungry and cold, and who held life itself to be of little value. No light, little fuel, shops closed because of shelves stripped and few goods being manufactured outside of army requirements. People of formerly comfortable means were either dead or forced to do the most arduous work. Many, in order to get food at all, had been forced to join the Red army. Moscow, he said, was in almost as pitiable a state as Petrograd; in both Cities the Communists simply took possession of any homes that suited them and occupied them at pleasure, frequently destroying property when it could no longer be of use to them. Industry was paralysed, due to lack of both men and material, as well as demoralized transportation. Wages had risen to such giddy heights that to carry on any industry except with Government paying deficits was impossible; but high wages were of



little value because goods and food were so scarce that prices were still far in excess of wages. Hundreds of thousands of people left the cities of European Russia, especially women and children to seek food and shelter from the revolution, in rural districts. Subsequently organized raids on grain and other stores of food by the Red Army discouraged production, as the only reward for production was confiscation; railway transportation for commercial purposes is very limited, in many districts abandoned because of no available rolling stock or motive power in running order; mining and lumbering, both very important industries, are curtailed to a minimum because of no transport inward for supplies or outward for their product.

Many men and women have come out of Russia and given evidence to the world verifying each other's testimony as to the facts pertaining to conditions there. Reliable labour men, well known to many in Canada, have added their quota.

Ben Turner and Tom Shaw, British labour leaders on their return from Russia, indicate disagreement with the Bolsheviki Government policy, especially as regards the franchise. Mr. Turner states there is great lack of clothing, food, and transport, and that smallpox, typhus, and malaria are prevalent. He describes the people as fifty per cent hungry, and that scenes of desolation exist in Petrograd. He states a great division exists between urban and rural populations; the former depends upon the latter for food, the latter upon the former for other commodities; the towns have no commodities to supply, and the rural people are not inclined to satisfy the food requirements because they get no compensating return, currency being practically valueless.

Miss Emma Goldman, the famous anarchist, who, with a number of others was deported from the United States to Russia, has definitely repudiated Bolshevism since she has witnessed it in action.

A most interesting revelation of the existing situation in Russia was published in England on June 3, 1920. It confirms and goes further than the interim report of the British labour delegates referred to. It is from a member of the Council of the People's Economy (Sounarhos) a Bolsheviki body, on the present situation in Soviet Russia. This document is reproduced in full from *The Times*, London June 3, as follows:

The economic position of Soviet Russia is growing worse. Every branch of industry and labour is being affected by the process of destruction, which has reached enormous proportions. Partial measures for reconstruction are now totally inadequate.

The chief reason for the catastrophe lies in the general loss of capacity for work in all classes of the population owing to the following:

- (1) Depriving the individual of all incentive to work;
- (2) Remunerating work so inadequately that the payment does not cover the living expenses;
- (3) Hunger, privation, and illness;
- (4) The absence of personal security;
- (5) The appointment to responsible posts of people without adequate qualifications simply because they happen to belong to the Communist Party;
- (6) The deliberate or unconscious sabotage of the Soviet Government by the whole population, carried out in every branch of national life in so far as it manages to escape detection and punishment;
- (7) Military operations, which prevent three-and-a-half millions of the population from engaging in productive work;
- (8) Constant changes in the personnel of the Government, as well as in the existing laws, which often contradict each other, provoking constant inter-departmental friction and loss of time.

It is scarcely possible to effect a remedy in the near future for this loss of working capacity among the working masses and peasants. The peasants are in possession of huge sums of money of various issues, and so long as this is kept in the villages, the peasants feel like millionaires and will not undertake any work outside.

#### THE BONDAGE OF WORKMEN

By a series of Soviet decrees workmen have been turned into bondmen, bound to whatever situation they may have been working in at the time the decree was issued; bondmen, moreover, without any prospect of promotion, nor any right to exchange their situation even within the confines of factory work or trade union. The Commissaries have not been able to reintroduce discipline among the factory hands, abolished



in 1917, notwithstanding the privileges accorded to Labour, the high level of wages, and the stringent regime to which they have latterly been subjected. The workmen desert works and factories wholesale, even at places where peasant industries have been developed. For instance, in the district of Pavlovsk, in the Government of Nijni-Novgorod, the whole metal industry has ceased to exist, and whole suburbs are deserted; the inhabitants have either fled to the south, or died.

At works and factories previously belonging to big manufacturers, which have been nationalized, there is a heavy penalty on the workmen who desert, but nevertheless the desertions continue to increase. In corresponding ratio with the loss of working capacity and desertions, the production of the factories continually diminishes, and experts are of the opinion that it is impossible to produce above 10 per cent of the pre-revolution output, although official returns state that 25 per cent and even 30 per cent have been reached. The falling off in the output of the factories is also due to the absence of (1) fuel; (2) lubricating oils; (3) repairing material; (4) raw material and raw products. All this has created such a situation that at present it is impossible to speak of the factories as working concerns. The only thing that can be done is to keep the factories running, and this specially occupies the attention of the High Council of the People's Economy. Unfortunately, however, even the mere effort to keep the factories from closing down is, in the majority of cases, impossible, as the factory property is stolen bit by bit by the starving workmen; they barter it for the necessities of life—bread, salt, etc.—to those peasants who are willing to exchange these commodities.

### LOCOMOTIVES

Up to the present, all efforts have been directed towards maintaining and diminishing transport service and supplying the army. Only 15 per cent of the locomotives awaiting repair have been overhauled. A further decrease in this percentage may be predicted, as the remaining Imperial stock of spare parts and material for repairing locomotives and railway carriages has been exhausted, and it is now necessary to take from one engine the parts which are required to repair another. By applying this method it is possible to repair, on an average, one locomotive by collecting the spare parts from seven others.

The number of new locomotives produced is steadily decreasing; in the whole of Soviet Russia only three or four locomotives per month are turned out, viz., 40 to 50 per annum, as against 800 to 1,000 under the old regime. Nor does the number of new railway carriages in any way correspond with the ever-growing needs of the moment.

Besides the lack of fuel (the wood used being of the 1919-20 season, therefore, still full of sap) and lubricating oils, there is a great dearth

of white metal (babbit) for the railway bearings (which are gradually being replaced by oak bearings lubricated by graphite) and a shortage of steel for railway wheel tires. Only one Martin oven at the Koulebak Works provides the whole of Soviet Russia with steel for railway wheel tires. The non-existence of steel for springs makes it impossible to replace the weakened springs; in consequence, the buffers and coupling-hooks not being on the same level prevents the composing of trains. Moreover, the pneumatic brakes are completely out of order, as well as all the lighting and heating apparatus. The carrying capacity of the railway trucks is not measured by weight, but by space, which makes matters still worse for the railways.

Although the means of transport is so seriously impaired, the Government—by irony—propose to electrify the railways, whilst there are no macadamised roads, no horses and no carts. The railways are falling to pieces at an alarming rate and experts predict that by August, 1920, all railway communication will have come to a standstill. Krassin, for instance, thinks that under the most favourable circumstances this branch of industry may possibly begin to revive by 1928, if taken in conjunction with the partial revival of the iron producing and metallurgic industries in 1927 which is hoped for, provided that the maximum amount of help from Germany is obtained. Other members of the Government are, in their hearts, of the same opinion. The views of engineers are still more pessimistic, as not only the rolling-stock, but also the earthworks, water-supply, workshops, apparatus for signalling, and the like are in a state of dilapidation. In their opinion it is necessary to invest, in round figures, three billions of gold roubles to make the Russian railways more or less fit to meet the requirements of the country.

The Government expects a great deal from the "Labour Army"; but these hopes are without foundation, as no raw material ready for use is available, the mining industry and agriculture being ruined.

### WATERWAYS AND LAND TRANSPORT

As to waterway communication, hardly 3 per cent of all steamships do not require repairing; the tonnage available for cargo in Soviet Russia is only equal to 3 per cent to 4 per cent of the general tonnage in 1913. It should also be remembered that the waterways, ports, and docks have not been repaired for a long time past, and to put the same into working order would take years and cost at least half a billion gold roubles. New ships are not being built, as the cost of building them is rising more rapidly than freights. For instance, the price of one poond of ship nails at the present time amounts to 25,000 Soviet roubles.

Land transport is almost non-existent, as the number of horses has, on an average, diminished by 70 per cent since 1917, and in the towns even more; for instance at Moscow there are now only



8,000 horses as against 136,000 in 1914. Moreover, in the Soviet Republic there is an extreme scarcity of the following commodities:—Oats (price 5,000 roubles per pood\*); hay (400 roubles per pood); harness (65,000 roubles); horses (60,000 roubles); horse-shoes, nails, iron hoops, sledges, and the like.

#### DISORGANIZATION OF FACTORIES

Other branches of industry are likewise in a state of disorganization. For example, on December 31, 1919, only four Martin ovens, three converters, six cupola furnaces, one blast furnace (being fed with inferior iron ore at the Wiksynsky factory) were in working order, and then only intermittently, and there was not a single rolling machine of any description to be had. In the Urals, immediately after their occupation, all industry collapsed, and at present, according to information received from one of the most prominent engineers, "after destroying everything, they hoped to set up a form of factory trust of Soviet Russia in the Urals, in competition to the United States of America." There, under threat of being shot or punished with the knout, only the Ishevsky factories are still at work, and they are turning out 2,000 rifles a day. The critical situation of the Ural factories is enhanced by the fact that they depend almost entirely upon wood fuel; therefore the aforementioned shortage in horses has had a particularly bad effect, as without them it is impossible to fetch the wood. At present there is no wood available, and there will be none for the next two or three years to come; the Ural region, therefore, cannot be counted upon.

The Petrograd group of factories has ceased to exist; the Moscow group is almost in a like condition; the Sormovo Works at Nijni-Novgorod produce army trains, a small number of cannon and ammunition, approximately 8 per cent of the amount produced in 1914; the Tishinsk Works are practically at a standstill; the Bulebansky Foundry turns out a small quantity of cast iron; the Vyksa has practically ceased to work, although their budget amounts to nearly three billions of Soviet roubles. The Kolomensky and Briansky Works belong to this group; they specialize in building locomotives, and their annual output was at one time 220 and 250 locomotives respectively; at present, however, they turn out  $1\frac{1}{2}$  locomotives per month, that is, 18 per annum, instead of 470. The output of munitions is also extraordinarily small, not exceeding 10 per cent of the work turned out during the Tsarist Government.

Other requirements of the country are equally badly looked after. When thought fit by the administration, orders are accepted, but no guarantee is given as to time of delivery, materials and fuel being supplied by the customer who gives the order.

Many kinds of iron which are only used by village blacksmiths and for agricultural purposes are not being produced at all, as, for instance, soldering iron and bloom-steel.

\* Note—A Pood is equal to 36 pounds avoirdupois.

The position is bound to become worse in the near future, as the Soviet Government is still drawing on the reserve stocks left over from former times, which are now almost exhausted. They cannot last longer than three or four months.

#### ABSENCE OF FUEL

There is no fuel, because only one-eighteenth of the estimated minimum quantity has been prepared. The cause of this is due to the absence of bread, horses, forage, necessary implements, and the new psychology of the workmen and peasants, who have lost their working capacity. Even this one-eighteenth was only achieved through the Government enforcing work by aid of exorbitant wages. Private individuals, who could not use this lever, were unable even to fulfil their contracts.

The drying and cutting of peat, which was limited to the district around Moscow, now yields only 20 per cent on the amount required, consequently there is no electric current for the weaving industry and other factories at Moscow. In the autumn of 1919, at the Moscow Electrical Power Station, a load of eight railway trucks of interest-bearing papers was burnt. Never before has a kilowatt cost Russia so much.

#### THE POSITION OF AGRICULTURE

The position of agriculture is the worst of all. A murrain among the animals, and the various "decrees" issued by the Government, have worked havoc, until the number of agricultural horses has decreased by 50 per cent, and even 90 per cent in the less fortunate quarters. Thus, in many instances, there is only one horse to 150 dessiatins of ploughable land. Hope of procuring horses from the Steppes has also had to be abandoned, as—(1) vast droves of horses have succumbed to mange, vaginitis, and the Siberian plague; (2) horses from the Steppes are useless for the plough and for other agricultural work. Experiments with tractors and the adaptation of motor lorries to the plough have, since October, 1919, had both time and money spent upon them, but they have not yet produced any good results.

There are no seeds for sowing either field or garden, and only 20 per cent of the arable land is under cultivation. The last harvest was poor, chiefly owing to bad tillage, unsatisfactory manuring, and inferior seeds, and also partly to unfavourable weather. It is now impossible to get seeds from Siberia, as there is no means of transport. Soviet estates have not fulfilled the high hopes anticipated; over one billion of roubles has been spent, and they have not even grown sufficient corn for the requirements of the labourers working on them.

Under the influence of the Soviet policy, the peasants have restricted their production to the limits of their own indisputable needs, and, in consequence, there is no agricultural produce which can be sent to the towns. There is no



corn, hemp, flax, seeds, no breeding of animals. Under normal conditions all this should be flourishing prosperously, because there has been no export trade since 1916. The first blow at the production of raw products and food-stuffs had already been struck in October, 1916. Restrictions were levied against the transport of goods from one province to another, and the shortage of raw products began to be felt. The revolution put an end to production altogether, and at the present time there are no raw products, nor will there be any until the means of transport is reorganized and personal freedom in working is restricted.

#### POLICY AND PRICES

The Soviet policy was based on the granting of certain privileges to the town workers at the expense of the peasants. At first there were established disproportionately high prices for factory products as compared with low fixed prices for agricultural products. This has led to the necessity of obtaining agricultural produce from the peasants by force—"by pricking them with the point of the bayonet"—as the Soviet saying goes; thus the peasant has been compelled to diminish his production to the limits of his own personal needs.

In January, 1920, in Moscow,

One pound of bread cost.....	200 roubles
"    "    groats.....	260 "
"    "    horse flesh.....	400 "
"    "    beef.....	800 "
"    "    pork.....	1,000 "
"    "    fat.....	1,200 "
"    "    butter.....	2,000 "

Thus prices became more or less equivalent to those of town products, as for instance:—

1 yd. of cotton fabric.....	400 roubles
(instead of 8 copecks.)	
1 box of matches.....	75 roubles
1 pair of boots.....	17,000 "
etc.	

#### EFFECT ON THE PEOPLE

Such an economic policy of the Soviets has only fostered and strengthened the feeling of ownership, and produced a marked leaning towards reaction. This tendency is becoming very pronounced, and if the present regime should collapse, the re-establishment of the strongest bourgeois capitalistic structure in the world may be expected. With this evolution of "deeper Russia" there appears a growing dissatisfaction with the present regime and its rulers, who take no measures (and indeed are quite incapable of doing so) to change this attitude of the people. Peasants and workmen often say now, "The time will come when we shall have a real master."

The attitude of the people towards our former Allies is sympathetic, and hostility towards the Germans is gradually dying away. Unfortunately, however, there is a spread of anti-Semitic

feeling, as the result of the activities of some commissaries, who are often of Jewish origin, and who are held responsible by popular opinion for the disappearance of foodstuffs and increase of prices.

Many members of the Bolshevik party and leaders in Soviet Russia realize the situation, but cannot remedy it; others still remain optimistic owing to incorrect information they have obtained from officials and institutions concerned. It is not easy to obtain correct information, as otherwise the unsatisfactory state of affairs disclosed would lead to an inquiry, and to the discovery of malpractices among officials, resulting in punishment inflicted by the "All-Russian Extraordinary Committee for Fighting Counter-Revolution and Speculation." Thus an accurate report would in the first place affect those representing the department. Malpractices are generally not found out, even by the Government control, as those who issue the reports usually have a secret understanding between the supervising controllers and themselves, and if one suffers the other does likewise. Besides, Government control is not encouraged; it is only tolerated by the members of the Soviet, and they endeavour to avoid it as much as possible. For instance, in the Military Commissariat and the All-Russian Extraordinary Committee control of any sort is *de facto*, non-existent. Control officials have no claim upon the Government rations, are badly paid, and belong mostly to anti-revolutionaries, so they are more susceptible to clandestine intrigue, which hampers national economy. With all this it is difficult to expect any improvement in the inner situation of the country. Even if the blockade is raised and international commercial relations are re-established things will scarcely improve, because the Soviet Government's means of transport has been destroyed to such an extent that all traffic and trade will be difficult for many years to come. The people have no means of production, and no incentive to work. Therefore the Soviet Government is unable to export much. The reserve stocks of timber, corn and flax, which are still in the hands of the peasants, serve their own needs, and the enforced export of such goods abroad would provoke an outburst of ill-feeling towards the Government and the importing countries.

#### GOODS FOR EXPORT

The only available goods for export would be timber, and accordingly the Labour Army has been commandeered for lumbering work. Unfortunately their working capacity has proved extremely low, only equal to about one-third of the average. Besides, the need of fuel in the interior of the country is so pressing that the Labour Army will hardly be able to prepare sufficient timber even for the railways, not to speak of other requirements. Lastly, the Labour Army could not be sent to lumbering districts in the north as there are no foodstuffs, and it is very difficult to transport bread and fodder to such places. Thus the Labour Army can only be used in Eastern Russia and in the region of



Moscow, Nijni-Novgorod, and other districts, whence no timber could be exported abroad owing to the extreme distance from shipping ports.

Wages on terms of free hire are now prohibitive in all branches of industry; six hours of work per diem is paid 600 roubles per man; six hours of work per diem is paid 500 to 700 roubles per horse with a lad. If the export of timber is to begin, means of communication must be re-established beforehand, and horses, men, victuals, fodder, and industrial implements must be provided.

To maintain the power of the Soviet Government it is necessary to improve the economic conditions of the country, and, first of all, to re-establish the means of transport. The export of wood to Entente countries would, by the import of certain goods, relieve the country to some extent, and thus strengthen the position of the Communist party. Besides, it would furnish a reason for keeping up a strong Labour Army which at any time could be used in the field.

#### FLAX AND WHEAT

As to flax, it is necessary to bear in mind that the manufacture of cotton goods has stopped, and, simultaneously, a regulation has been issued prohibiting the peasants from receiving such goods; therefore, the flax produced is kept exclusively for home use, and that flax seed is used for oil pressing in such quantities that difficulties are expected in resowing the fields. This is the result of the absence of fats and the high price of oil; linseed oil fetches 1,200 roubles per pound. Besides, flax demands a strong potassium fertilizer and very careful preparation, and, in the absence of alkali salts and manure, flax cannot possibly yield a satisfactory harvest. Lastly, flax is at present subject to a fixed price, therefore the peasants grow it only for their personal requirements. There existed old stocks of flax in the provinces of Kostroma, Tver, and Pskov, but most of them have been already used up by the peasants themselves, and a part has been requisitioned by the Government and used for the production of yarn and peroxiline. All this renders the collection or requisitioning of the remaining small stocks of flax very difficult.

The same thing may be said of the export of wheat. The production of wheat has decreased at the present moment by two-thirds or more. Up to the year 1914, Russia had been able to export 15 per cent of her total production, after satisfying her own standard of consumption, which is the lowest in Europe. Putting our pre-war production at 100 per cent, we consumed 85 per cent of it, which meant about 14 poods per person, as against 17 poods in Western Europe. At present Russia only produces about 45 per cent which is 40 per cent less than her previous home consumption. We may expect famine in Soviet Russia, and an entire population may die out altogether in Northern Russia, as it chiefly existed on corn transported from the South.

Agriculture has suffered most in Soviet

Russia; to re-establish it special concerns must be created, run by joint-stock companies in the South and South-East, which regions are sparsely populated. In more crowded areas small farms should be set up. This would meet with the approval of the people, who even now realize that they must not appropriate land without payment of taxes. The peasants are ready and willing to buy the land which they occupy. That is one of the reasons why the Soviet Government finds it difficult to collect taxes from the peasants who are saving up and hiding money with a view to eventually buying the land from its legitimate owners. The holding back of currency notes has created the necessity of issuing new emissions, as the notes which reach the villages do not return to the State Bank.

#### LAND AND THE MONETARY SYSTEM.

A settlement of the land question in this sense may provide the means for reorganizing the monetary system, and influencing the mentality of the masses, who will give away their money for their land, and will no longer consider themselves millionaires. Then they will settle to work again. This would be the best way for redressing the trade balance of the country, as the former landowners will invest the money received in industrial and other undertakings.

The adverse trade balance could hardly be restored by granting concessions to foreigners, because the Soviet Government could never admit the existence of concessions, which could have the privilege of ex-territoriality. This would involve the admittance of payments in gold, along with the prevailing Soviet currency, and the contrast between the two currencies might bring about a counter-revolution. Besides, concessions could only be worked advantageously if the conditions of the local labour market—i.e., re-victualling, fodder, necessities of life, dwelling-houses, clothing, etc.—were satisfactory. No concessions could be profitably worked with imported labour; they would have to depend on local labour; but it must be remembered that normal working conditions are at present non-existent in Soviet Russia. The transport service is destroyed, and there are no victuals, no necessities of life, no raw materials, and no possibility of getting them. First of all, the transport service must be restored with foreign assistance, the economic situation of the country must be improved, and the "Labour Army" must be reinforced and reorganized as a strictly military institution—a rifle in a workman's hand is the best weapon against the bourgeoisie! Accordingly, such concessions will not be intended to serve solely economic purposes and cannot be expected to yield profit. If the Government of Soviet Russia were to guarantee a profit on the concessions to be granted, this would be a sort of payment made on behalf of the people. It would supply in an indirect way the necessary sum for the upkeep of the Labour Army. Lastly, such concessions would be the means of fomenting agitation among the popular masses against the Powers holding concessions.



## KRASSIN'S CONDITIONS.

The conditions under which the Soviet Government could grant concessions are very aptly defined by Comrade L. B. Krassin—viz., "Recognition of the decrees of the Soviet Republic in the conceded territory, adoption of the same system of payment and labour regulations as are in force over the territory of the Republic, the recognition of and submission to the Soviet Republic."

Regarding the future status of eventual concessions, Comrade Tchitcherine, in a letter to President Wilson, clearly set forth our fundamental principles. He states that the Communist Party do not consider the present bourgeois Governments to be legitimate, and that the Communists have entered into agreements only as a temporary measure, being forced to do so by the prevailing circumstances, owing to which those who will one day take the place of ruling presidents and monarchs are still detained in prison. This letter is, so far, the credo of the foreign policy of the Soviet Republic. It is evident that, owing to lack of recognition from the bourgeois Governments, it is not necessary to be too particular in the observance of those obligations which have been voluntarily contracted, as, in coming political changes, all such obligations will be automatically set aside. Thus, the Communist Party is ready to conclude any agreement, which will only turn out to be a repetition of the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk. This applies also to negotiations with Poland, with which country we shall certainly be at war as soon as circumstances permit, as, because of the impossibility of a Socialist Communist State being able to conform to its ideals if situated in juxtaposition to bourgeois States, according to the fundamental principles of the Communist Party, wars must go on so long as all existing States are not transformed into Soviet Republics. This is a basic principle, and demands the use of all and every means in the fight for existence. It does not necessarily imply the use of arms. The reign of true Communism cannot be eternally maintained by arms alone; it must be based on the very essence of human nature. The most splendid victories of Communism have been brought about mainly by the power of its principles, and by the judicious inoculation of its ideas by peaceful means.

An example of this is the clever way in which the Soviet authorities took advantage of the political mistakes committed by Koltchak and Denikin. The Soviet Government was not slow to realize these errors; it took quick action and all the anti-revolutionary forces soon collapsed. In the rear of Koltchak the Government expended 80 million roubles in gold for purposes of propaganda, and in the rear of Denikin about 70 millions. Vast sums of money are being sent to Poland in the rear of the Polish armies for the same purpose. This has proved a very efficacious as well as practical method, because, after the occupation of the territory by the Soviets, the money being requisitioned returns almost in full to the State Exchequer. This measure, therefore, scarcely affects the gold balance of the

Soviet Republic, and further requisitions of gold from the bourgeoisie in the occupied territory helped to swell the State Treasury.

Even the 15,000,000 roubles in gold paid by the Republic to Euthonia in accordance with the Peace Treaty may be expected to return to the State Exchequer in due course.

In the closing paragraphs of the foregoing statement three things are particularly noteworthy—i.e. the war with Poland, which is even now in progress; the anticipated granting of concessions to foreign countries, which is borne out by press reports in our own Canadian papers of July 17, indicating that the Russian Soviet Government is proposing to obtain necessary imports to restore transportation and industry within her own borders by granting large timber, iron, gold, oil, and oilshale concessions to outside countries in payment for goods received, and the propaganda methods adopted by which Koltchak and Denikin were first betrayed and then annihilated.

Briefly stated, the Soviet regime in Russia has resulted in the murder of thousands, the death of millions by war, plague, and hunger, and in the destruction of industry, of agricultural production, and financial credit. No one can accurately foretell the extent of the loss, suffering, sorrow, and death which must inevitably still occur before the final act in this terrible drama is ended.

Numerous other reliable authorities might be quoted to verify the foregoing facts indicating the utter failure of socialistic ideals as practiced in unhappy Russia, but these are probably sufficient to indicate the truth.

Our concern, however, does not end with a knowledge of the disasters wrought there. What is the cause and purpose of the active socialist propaganda in North America? The credentials of Mr. Martens, the accredited Ambassador of the Soviet Republic to the United States did not warrant his assumption of diplomatic privilege. He never presented himself at the State Department or sought the usual audience with the Secretary of State which is customary for diplomatic representatives. He protested constantly to the United



States Senate Committee, which was conducting an investigation of his activities, that his sole purpose in the United States was to develop trade relations between the United States and Russia, although he had never communicated in any way with the War Trade Board or any other Department of the United States Government respecting trade. What then was his real purpose? Documentary evidence submitted to the Committee indicated that a Bureau had been organized in the City of New York for the purpose of establishing communications with Russia, and carrying on propaganda work in America. This Bureau was composed of eight persons, Martens being the head, and Mr. Santeri Nuorteva the Secretary. (This latter gentleman will be remembered in connection with certain Canadian matters during and since the war.) Communications between Mr. Martens and his Government were almost invariably carried by couriers whose travels are presumed to have been facilitated by spurious passports, or otherwise certainly in violation of the laws governing foreign intercourse between the two countries at that time. He testified that twenty couriers were engaged in this service. In addition to letters, instructions, and other communications, large sums of money were brought over by them.

As to his real mission in America the following excerpt from the United States Senate Committee's report is illuminating;

In seeking to determine what propaganda, if any, he is carrying on, for the overthrow of Governments, as directed by the resolution of the Senate, the testimony is somewhat complicated. It is evident from the constitution of the Government which he affects to represent (p. 165) that the fundamental problem of Soviet Russia is to bring about "the victory of socialism in all lands." In this motive Martens admitted (p. 166) the United States is "absolutely" included. There were also adduced in evidence two letters, copies of which were furnished by Martens himself, purporting to have been addressed by Nicolas Lenin, Prime Minister of Soviet Russia, to American workmen. The first of these letters (p. 111) dated August 20, 1908, counted "on the inevitability of the international revolution" (p. 116), while the second, dated January 21, 1919, laid emphasis (p. 117) on the tremendous rapidity with which the workers in various countries have gone over to communism and Bolshevism, and boasted (p. 120) "that the Soviet power is great and spreading, growing, and establishing itself all over the world." These documents, the authenticity of which Martens admitted (p. 121) were justified by him—the earlier appeal on the ground that this was necessary counter-propaganda against the activities which, as he asserted, the so-called Creel Committee had carried on in Soviet Russia (p. 122). He pointed out that this letter was written prior to his appointment as Soviet representative in this country. But the second letter, dated January 21, 1919, and also offered by himself in evidence, (p. 117) was written some three weeks after Martens' appointment, and he justified it (p. 179) upon the ground that American troops were in Russia opposing Bolsheviks, though he qualified this justification by declaring (p. 180) that propaganda of this character a few months later would have no justification.

It appeared, however, that even at this time, when as he contended, propaganda of this kind would be unjustifiable, there met in Moscow the so-called Third Internationale, which is the parent body of all Communist organizations, and, in fact, its international court of last resort. From this body issued a manifesto signed, among others, by Nicholas Lenin, the Soviet Prime Minister, and by Leon Trotsky, the Soviet Minister of War, who are the ruling spirits in the Soviet Government. It is addressed "to the proletariat of all lands" and purports to contain (p. 182) "the authentic direct message from the conquering proletariat of great Russia to the toiling masses of the world." It pictures "alongside the dethroned dynasties of the Romanoffs, Hohenzollerns, and Hapsburgs, and the capitalistic cliques of these lands the rulers of France, England, Italy and the United States . . . revealed in the light of unfolding events" and diplomatic disclosures in their immeasurable villainess."

With these sentiments (p. 183) Martens said that he agreed; and (p. 185) in an article signed by him and published in the *New York Call* on Thursday May 1, 1919, he declared that "the attitude of the workers of the world toward the Russian workers' revolution has proved that the spirit of International solidarity of the workers is not dead. It is resurrecting in the Third Internationale a new glory," and he concluded his article with the exclamation, "Long live the Third Internationale." He later (p. 185) testified that he approved of the Third Internationale and its principles. It also appeared (p. 187) that the Russian Soviet Government, by a decree issued in December, 1917, appropriated 2,000,000 roubles "for the needs of the revolutionary international movement for the disposition of the foreign representatives of the commissariat for foreign affairs". Martens



himself, by the *prima facie* evidence of his own letter of credence, is such a representative, and this appropriation of money for the purpose of propaganda in foreign lands he justified (p. 189) on the ground that at this time "Russia was in the throes of a revolution and civil war and was attacked by all Governments". He added that he supposed the amount allocated was much more than 2,000,000 roubles. He declared that the Bureau through which this money was to be expended has now passed out of existence, but admitted that his information on this point was gained through the Russian newspapers (p. 190). In this connection it was developed that a report alleged to have been sent by Martens to Frederick Strom (p. 191) the Soviet representative at Stockholm, spoke of Martens' agents being "busy in the Western States and in Canada where they are. . . creating secret Committees for propaganda and becoming acquainted with professional organizations and local press" and that "American workers" associations are passionately interested in the state of Russia and they are becoming more and more firm in the creed that nothing but Bolshevism could advance the proletariat". Martens admitted to have sent many communications by courier to Strom, but he denied that any report of this character was among them.

In line with the foregoing it may be significant that Martens, in his closing words of testimony before the Committee, testified that it "would be an improvement to have the Soviet Government here" and that he "would call that revolution."

It further appeared (p. 208) that a newspaper published in Petrograd in the interest of trade unions of that City, and known as the "Trud", on November 10, 1919, published an article declaring that "soon the victory of the proletariat dictatorship in the whole world will be guaranteed", that "with the proletariats of all countries an agreement would be reached without any diplomats. But with you, Messrs. Imperialists, we shall carry on conversations just as you do with us—behind every word force; behind every condition force—behind every demand force". In commenting on this Martens testified that he did not believe in "force as such" but that he did believe in it "if necessary".

Martens admitted (p. 239) that he had been a revolutionist for 25 years and in every country where he has ever lived; that he was a revolutionist when he came to the United States, and that he is a revolutionist now.

As indicating the difficulty of separating Martens and his activities from propaganda carried on for the purpose of replacing the existing Government of the United States with Sovietism, it is instructive to note (p. 52) his emphatic testimony that he never "attempted in any way to have the people of this country advocate a soviet form of Government; that he was not connected directly or indirectly with any organization or association which advocated sovietism in this country; and that he had never given support either moral or financial to such an organization. This testimony, however, was followed immediately by an admission (p. 52) that he was "very often in touch with these

organizations" and that "on several occasions" he "accepted their invitation and spoke about Russia but never in regard to the internal affairs of the United States". These speeches, he testified (p. 53) were fully reported in the *New York Call* yet in connection with speeches made by others and likewise reported in the *New York Call* he protested vehemently that they were incorrectly reported (p. 24). This leads to the suggestion that Martens possibly occupied a privileged position in the columns of the *New York Call* such as he testified attended him when he sought to obtain Russian citizenship.

Referring to the secret activities of Martens, it will be noted from the testimony (pp. 212, 220 and elsewhere) that he denied all knowledge or relationship with the Russian Socialist Federation except in so far as the evidence presented by counsel for the Committee compelled qualifications in reply to interrogations. For example the telegram addressed to the convention of the Russian Socialist Federation in Detroit (p. 284) is documentary refutation of the witness's statement that he never gave, directly or indirectly, moral support to an organization which advocated a soviet form of Government in the United States. The record shows (p. 251) that in spite of repeated denials on the part of the witness he was regarded by his most important assistant, Mr. Nuortova, and his friend, Dr. Mislis, Treasurer of the Russian Federation, as an actual member of the association. This association, be it noted, not only advocates a soviet form of Government but is organizing for the purpose of overthrowing the present form of Government under which we live, by force and violence. Martens denied explicitly (p. 281) that he had engaged in secret political activity, yet when confronted with the minutes of the secret convention held by the Russian Socialist Federation in Detroit in August 1919, he was compelled to admit making a speech before the delegates. On at least two other occasions also he had tried to reach a basis of co-operation in conference with the executive committee of the Association.

In connection with his Bureau Martens published a weekly newspaper known as "Soviet Russia" which has a circulation of from 15,000 to 30,000, about one half of this number going to subscribers, some 2,000 being "sent without charge to public men in the country" and the balance distributed by new agencies (p. 57). He also contemplated opening a technical school for Russians purposing to return to this country (p. 57), but this plan was never consummated. He proposed "to call a technical conference of those who desired to help Soviet Russia" and for this purpose registered over 20,000 people. This registration took place not only at the office of the Soviet Bureau in West Fortieth Street, New York City, but also at the Rand School, where some form of branch office was maintained (p. 345). A questionnaire was furnished to each registrant and in its original form a registrant was asked if he preferred to "remain in America to work with the Soviet Government" (p. 347). Martens adduced no adequate explanation of what this "work with the Soviet Government" in this country would comprise.



Martens himself appeared to have had very little to do with the practical management of this Bureau. He seems to have been something on the order of a show figure, and he frequently responded in tactful terms of gratitude to letters and resolutions of greeting which were sent to him by numerous organizations of a socialist nature, both American and Russian in their membership. One of these letters of greeting presented in evidence (p. 279) came from the Socialist party of the eighth assembly district of New York, in which the members of this organization pledged themselves "to work unceasingly for the propagation of those principles and policies and tactics that will aid directly in the establishment of a socialistic federated soviet republic in America." Against such sentiments Martens testified (p. 280) he did not protest, saying that he regarded this as none of his concern, and adding that he did not regard it as a crime "to propagate the Soviet idea in the United States" (p. 281).

Prominent among Martens' activities was his attendance upon public meetings generally held under the auspices of some of the numerous branches of the Socialist party. One such (p. 215) was addressed by Gregory Weinstein, who was reported in the newspapers to have said "we have come here to tell Comrade Martens that we intend to prepare to take over this great country just as the working class has taken over Russia". Another, held April 1, 1919, presided over by Nicholas Hourwich, a near relative of whom later became the head of a Department in the Martens Soviet Bureau, and who was quoted in the *New York Call* as having said in his opening address that the "left wing proposed to bring Bolshevism to America" (p. 218). Martens declared that he did not remember having heard either of these declarations, that he made no protest about it at any rate, that he is a Bolshevik, that he "would be very glad to see America Bolshevik" and that "any means which would produce this condition would be justified".

The repeated reference to the fact that Martens used the *New York Call* extensively as his publicity medium is interesting to Canadians in that this was the publication for which the Rev. Wm. Ivens of Winnipeg was the reputed correspondent. During the brief period that telegraphic communication was in the hands of the strike Committee, of Winnipeg, in 1919, reports of the situation there continued to appear in the *New York Call* apparently transmitted by its Winnipeg correspondent.

The reference in the foregoing report to funds received by the Martens' Bureau, for propaganda work, recalls to mind the fact that United States currency in Fifty Dollar denominations

was quite extensively circulated in Winnipeg in May 1919, being presented at Banks, chiefly by foreigners, to be changed into bills of smaller denomination.

It is apparent from the foregoing report that the alleged mission of Mr. Martens to America was not his real mission, and, further, that his propaganda campaign included Canada as well as the United States.

Indicative of the Soviet Government's ultimate aim the following extract from Lenin's letter of May. 30, 1920, to the members of the British Labour delegation then in Russia, is significant: "Shaw and Guest, members of your delegation, were obviously surprised and hurt by my statement that England, notwithstanding our peace proposals, continues her intervention, is carrying on a war against us in the Crimea and in Poland, and they asked me whether I have proofs to this effect. I replied that, for the purpose of getting access to the secret agreements of the British Government, it is necessary to overthrow it by revolutionary means and to lay hold of all documents of its foreign policy, as was done by us in 1917." Needless to observe Mr. Lenin's answer was not accepted as proof of his statement.

#### Is Canada Affected?

It is reasonably apparent that Socialism, as practiced under the Russian Soviet System, has proven a disastrous failure in Russia, and that it was and is the ambition of the Soviet Republic to make their revolution world-wide in scope. Neither a nation nor an individual can live wholly independent of all others. It is equally obvious that Soviet Russia cannot hope to perpetuate her ideals unless they are practiced internationally, hence her object is to involve the world.

Various organizations in Canada are spreading socialistic propaganda, the promoters and leaders in most instances knowing full well that they are wilfully misleading many honest-intentioned citi-



zens by the various disguises under which their aims are cloaked.

Among the numerous organizations referred to may be named the following:

The Socialist Party of Canada;  
 International Bible Students;  
 The One Big Union;  
 The Labour Church;  
 The Russian Socialist group;  
 The Ukranian Socialist group;  
 The Finn Socialist group;  
 The Ukranian Dramatic Society—  
 Moose Jaw;  
 Ex-Soldiers and Sailors Labour Party, Winnipeg;  
 The Union of Russian Workers;  
 Zluka (Ukranian Bolsheviki);  
 Spujnia (Polish);  
 The Bulgarian Bolsheviks;

The Jewish Bolsheviki party;  
 The Socialist Revolutionary group;  
 The Anarchist Communists;  
 The Communist Labour party;

Their policies differ in degree only. Almost all repudiate religion. Each in their own way propose to make over our economic system by forcible means, adding, as most of them do, "if necessary".

A number of these organizations control certain so-called labour papers, the most influential of which are the B. C. Federationist of Vancouver, Searchlight of Calgary, O. B. U. Bulletin of Winnipeg, Vanpas (Finnish) of Sudbury, Travailleur (in English and French) of Montreal, together with others published in various languages.

Pamphlets and cards are extensively printed and distributed. Following is a sample:

### CARD OF MEMBERSHIP

# ONE BIG UNION

## NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL UNION OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA

"Money is the Root of All Evil,"  
saith the Lord.

I, the undersigned, do hereby declare that, by the help of God, I will STRIKE against the use of money at any time I may be called upon.

Name .....

Address .....

Witness .....

"Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest," saith the Lord.

Space will not permit reference to each of the organizations referred to herein, but mention of two would seem desirable, viz: THE ONE BIG UNION: THE LABOUR CHURCH.

The One Big Union is an industrial organization conceived by prominent Socialists in this country, who evidently hoped to effect an economic and political revolution by means of the strike weapon. It proposes that all who toil would become members of one union and by economic force, compel acceptance of their demands. To many the thought appeals. Is not organization the order of the day? Organized capital, organized employers, and organized labour are all realities; why not create one huge union of which all workers would be members and thus greatly add to the efficiency and strength of labour? Why not try the new idea?.... The idea is not new; it was first seriously advanced in 1869, by Uriah Smith, in Philadelphia, when he and other garment workers originated the "Knights of Labour". That organization advocated public ownership and operation of all public utilities, co-operation in the production and distribution of goods, for the common good of all. "An injury to one is the concern of all", was their declaration of faith. They were organized in one body, without distinction of trade or craft. They denied all identity of interest between employer and employee and objected to being expected to respect any contractual obligations. In 1875 at a National convention at Tyrone, Penn., the Social Democratic party of North America joined the Knights of Labour. For a decade the dual organization progressed until, in 1885, they introduced sabotage in the Gould strike, which brought upon them public condemnation resulting in their dissolution as a labour organization in the nineties. The One Big Union of to-day, is in principle, a reproduction of the "Knights of Labour" of 1869.

Following close upon the dissolution of the Knights of Labour the "Socialist Trade and Labour Alliance" sprang into existence, in 1895, when a delegation from District Assembly 49 of the Knights

of Labour met with the Central Labour Federation of New York City and formed the new alliance. The plan originated with Daniel DeLeon, a fervid Marxian Socialist, and the organization was endorsed by the Socialist Labour Party. The alliance never prospered and ceased to exist in 1905, but its leaders played a prominent role at a Convention in Chicago in the same year, at which the Industrial Workers of the World was formed, and into this latter organization the Socialist Trades and Labour Alliance was merged.

To indicate the close similarity between the policy of the Socialist Trades and Labour Alliance and the One Big Union a letter addressed to Mr. R. B. Russell, just prior to the first One Big Union convention at Calgary, in 1919, which has for some time been a public document, is here quoted:

Dear Friend Russell:

Glad to hear from you. I know how busy you are so never apologize for not writing me. I had the enclosed tucked safely away for the last nine years awaiting the day which I knew was coming. I want you to have a print made of it by someone whom you can trust not to destroy the original, then carefully send it on to Wells, B. C. Federationist, with similar instructions. I want it returned to me; gold cannot buy it. It is off this that Lenin has formed his Soviet administration as far as possible. It was drawn up by Daniel DeLeon, 9 years ago. Get paper copies of this on a circular and send it broadcast. The Henry Dubbs will get the idea quickly, much more so than dozens of lectures. So you see I was in O. B. U. before I was a Socialist or Bolshevik.

(Signed) ROSE HENDERSON.

The preamble of the One Big Union constitution is also quoted to indicate similarity between the "Knights of Labour" and the One Big Union.

#### CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF THE ONE BIG UNION.

AMENDED AT WINNIPEG CONVENTION,  
JANUARY, 1920.

##### PREAMBLE.

Modern industrial society is divided into two classes, those who possess and do not produce and those who produce and do not possess. Alongside this main division all other classifications fade into insignificance. Between these



two classes a continual struggle takes place. As with buyers and sellers of any commodity there exists a struggle on the one-hand of the buyer to buy as cheaply as possible, and, on the other, of the seller to sell for as much as possible, so with the buyers and sellers of labour power. In the struggle over the purchase and sale of labour power the buyers are always masters—the sellers always workers. From this fact arises the inevitable class struggle.

As industry develops and ownership becomes concentrated more and more into fewer hands; as the control of the economic forces of society become more and more the sole property of imperialistic finance, it becomes apparent that the workers, in order to sell their labour power with any degree of success, must extend their forms of organization in accordance with changing industrial methods. Compelled to organize for self-defence they are further compelled to educate themselves in preparation for the social change which economic developments will produce whether they seek it or not.

The One Big Union, therefore, seeks to organize the wage worker, not according to craft but according to industry; according to class and class needs, and calls upon all workers to organize irrespective of nationality, sex, or craft, into a workers' organization, so that they may be enabled to more successfully carry on the every day fight over wages, hours of work, etc., and prepare themselves for the day when production for profit shall be replaced by production for use.

#### WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE.

##### NAME.

*Clause 1.*—The name of the organization shall be THE ONE BIG UNION.

##### MEMBERSHIP.

*Clause 2.*—Membership in the O. B. U. shall be open to all wage workers. No member shall be eligible for any elective office in the O. B. U. who is carrying a membership card in any International Union, and no delegate to represent a unit who carries any other form of union card.

##### INITIATION FEE.

*Clause 3.*—The maximum initiation fee to be charged by local units for new members shall be One Dollar.

The I. W. W. headquarters advertised, published, and distributed One Big Union literature in 1919, and gave aid and encouragement to its organization in Canada. The name "One Big Union" was adopted at the Calgary convention, it being stated that it would not do for them to be known as the I. W. W. in Canada. Scores of documents and incidents could be quoted in evidence to

prove the close connection existing between Martens' Soviet Bureau in New York and O. B. U. leaders in Canada. A few will doubtless suffice.

Appeals are being directed to all O. B. U. units in Canada to contribute to a fund for sending medical assistance to Soviet Russia. These appeals have appeared in the *British Columbia Federationist*, and have been read in most if not all of the O. B. U. branches in Canada. In some cases they have been presented by emissaries who appeared in person. It will be noticed that the Soviet Bureau in New York is acquainted with the whereabouts of the O. B. U. branches in Canada.

In Toronto, on April 9, last, a speaker said that "in the very near future the O. B. U. will be a real communistic organization and a lot of members of this body are communist anarchists, and I. W. W., and are getting more powerful all the time. Very soon all the Unions will join the O. B. U. All organized workers are waiting and getting ready for a general strike; then will break out something."

At an O. B. U. meeting in Montreal, on March 28 last, a well known organizer stated "he was in Winnipeg during the strike and no one can deny at the present time it was the object pure and simple to overthrow the Government and establish a Soviet Government in Canada. All realized now they had made a mistake in starting in Winnipeg alone, but that they should first have got a thorough organization all over Canada and then made one big revolution which it would have been impossible to suppress".

These examples of the utterances of the O. B. U. leaders surely indicate their real purpose. It is, however, only fair to point out that they have at the moment many adherents who are not aware of and would not willingly support their revolutionary intentions.

The name "One Big Union" was adopted to mislead the worker who would not affiliate with the I. W. W. movement. The Labour Church is a subsidiary of the One Big Union, as the following information will indicate;

The first so-called Labour Church was established in Winnipeg during the winter of 1918-1919 under the auspices of Rev. Wm. Ivens, the reputed Winnipeg correspondent to the *New York Call*.

In June 1919 a New People's Church was set up in Brandon, presided over by Rev. A. E. Smith. In September 1919, the Labour Church in Edmonton was formed, with the Rev. G. L. Ritchie as pastor. In June 1920, an effort was made to establish one in Fort William under Mr. A. Henry, one in Vancouver under Mr. J. S. Woodsworth, and also one in Calgary. It may be recalled that the Russian Soviet Republic in its constitution adopted in 1917 repudiated all forms of religion as then practiced and declared that monks and clergy of all denominations do not perform any useful social functions.

Mr. Martens is the authorized ambassador of the Soviet Republic in the United States and head of the Soviet Bureau in America for the conducting of a propaganda campaign admittedly financed by the Russian Soviet Government.

There is evidence of the fact that Martens had agents at work in the Western States and Canada, and proof that Rev. Wm. Ivens was an active O.B.U. promoter, and correspondent for the *New York Call*, Marten's chief publicity medium.

Mr. T. A. Barnard, of Victoria, in mentioning the Labour Church said, "one could speak on anything which would benefit the state of things in the present world and let the world hereafter take care of itself."

Mr. A. Henry, at Fort William, said, "We could get some recruits from the Orthodox Church; the best thing to call this education is the Labour Church, because if it is called a socialist meeting there are a lot of people who would not come."

Many more similar utterances of the men acting as pastors of these so-called Labour Churches might be quoted. It

would appear that this movement is merely a subsidiary of the Socialist Revolutionary movement and a piece of hypocrisy, evidently conscious in the case of most of its promoters, designed to interest in the revolutionary movement persons of religious and humanitarian principles to whom the ordinary Marxian propaganda would not be attractive. It surely contains no genuine element of religion.

Mr. R. B. Russell, Manitoba Secretary for the O.B.U. and a member of the Executive, was asked, in May 1919, why they were attacking the international trade union movement so bitterly. His reply was that the Trade Unions had always stood in the way of the progress of socialism and that they must be destroyed. This was exactly the attitude of the Knights of Labour. In Canada the International Trade Unions have a total membership of about 260,000; their policies are well known. In the industrial field they endeavour, by crafts, to negotiate agreements with employers by direct conference or arbitration, a strike always being a last resort. They respect and uphold constitutional Government; their members are obligated before God and hold sacred the moral law. The following table will give the reader an idea of the relative standing of the various organisations of labour in Canada:

	Branches	Membership.
International.....	2,309	260,247
Non-International...	325	33,372
Independent.....	29	8,278
National Catholic ....	83	35,000
One Big Union.....	101	41,150
Totals.....	2,847	378,047

There is at the moment some indication of an attempted alliance between the non-Internationals and the One Big Union, but there would appear to be little probability of success.



The National Catholic Unions are located in the Province of Quebec and are very anti-socialist.

It is to be remembered finally that the insidious propaganda campaign which has resulted so disastrously in Russia is still being carried on in North America and in other parts of the world. The popular motto is "bore from within." This process is going on in both the religious and industrial field. Employers who do not show due regard for the needs and rights of their workmen are substantially aiding the enemy that would destroy them. Many do not recognize that the legitimate labour movement is today playing a large part in preventing industrial and economic disaster, it is also the power that guarantees to the worker a reasonable return for his labour, a standard of living much above that which would prevail were his interest not protected, and is an anchor to steady him from the waves of radicalism which from time to time seek to wreck all that has been accomplished by way of constructive permanent improvement. Trade Unions which retain within their ranks men who use their membership to "bore from within", and destroy instead of support, are assuming a serious responsibility and risk. There is unquestionably need

of and opportunity for work by the Christian Churches of every denomination.

The Government of Canada has given serious and constant attention to this problem during the past year and a half. Every action taken to protect the people has been misrepresented by the Red propagandists. If further sympathy or support is given to this revolutionary movement, that would if it prevails devastate North America, as it has destroyed Russia, it will not be done innocently.

It was not deemed advisable to make any official statement regarding this propaganda campaign until a thorough examination of it had been completed. The facts as they exist are outlined in this article. It is for every citizen to decide as to how his or her influence will be directed. If our industrial, social, political, and religious institutions, established through years of experience, should, in the opinion of our people, be replaced by a Constitution such as now exists in Russia, then their course is clear; if, on the other hand, they desire to perpetuate the British constitution, civil and religious liberty, love of God, home and native land, then their line of duty is also plain.







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Canada. Labour, Dept. of  
Information respecting the Russian Soviet  
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